

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference feel agreement between three Bosnian parties could be concluded soon; urge "leverage by Governments", according to their spokesman.
- + Secretary-General sets up Peace-keeping Reserve Fund in amount of \$150 million; transfers initial amount of \$59 million to Fund.
- + Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, 26 February, recommends incorporation of humanitarian issues in planning and dispatch of fact-finding missions.
- + Calls for increased international cooperation to address worsening of drug trafficking situation, at conclusion of second meeting of European Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Vienna.
- + Secretary General appoints Major-General Chris Abutu Garuba from Nigeria as Chief Military Observer of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

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The Spokesman for Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, Fred Eckhard, said today that Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen continued to be of the opinion that the three Bosnian parties were close to an agreement on a settlement, and that "with sufficient leverage applied by Governments" the negotiations could be concluded soon.

Speaking to United Nations correspondents today, Mr. Eckhard said it was "frustrating" to see the war going on while one or the other of the parties had been reluctant "to come to the table or to negotiate seriously". He said it was crucial to take full advantage of the presence of all three parties in New York.

Mr. Eckhard's comments came as a new round of talks aimed at securing peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina began this morning at United Nations Headquarters. The Co-Chairmen met with the Bosnian-Serb leader Mr. Karadzic,

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who, upon his arrival yesterday in New York, held talks with Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew, United States' special envoy to the peace talks, and Deputy Foreign Minister Churkin, special envoy of the Russian Federation.

The Co-Chairmen also met this afternoon with the Bosnian-Croat leader, Mate Boban, and were scheduled to hold a meeting with the Croat member of the Bosnian Government this evening. President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia was expected to arrive to New York from Washington D.C. later today, the spokesman said.

In a separate development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has expressed concern over the United States' air drops of humanitarian assistance in Eastern Bosnia, calling the operation "risky" and without "the necessary legal authority" under the Security Council.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 24 February, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia, Ilija Djukic, warned that "many unintended incidents might occur, some of which may not be accidental" as a result of the airdrops. He noted that the delivery of aid in the usual way, namely through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), "would be much more suitable and greater in size" than the one provided by to provide by airdrops.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the General Assembly that he has established the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund, as requested by the Assembly last December, as a cash-flow mechanism to ensure the rapid response of the United Nations to the needs of peace-keeping operations. The Fund, which is under the Secretary-General's authority, will be in the amount of \$150 million once it is fully established.

In a note to the Assembly, dated 24 February, the Secretary-General said an initial amount of \$59 million had been transferred to the Fund, of which \$42 million came from the special account of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia and \$17 million from the special account of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

The note pointed out that about \$32.9 million from the Fund had been loaned to certain United Nations peace-keeping operations to meet their temporary cash shortages. In addition, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions under unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, an amount of \$9.5 million had been earmarked from the Fund to meet initial costs associated with the United Nations Operations in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). The available balance in the Fund amounted to \$16.6 million, the note said.

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The Security Council, in a Presidential statement issued on Friday, 26 February, has stressed the importance of including humanitarian considerations

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in the planning and dispatch of United Nations fact-finding missions to countries in conflict.

The statement, which was issued in connection with the Council's continuing examination of the Secretary-General's report -- "An Agenda for Peace", emphasized the often close relationship between acute needs for humanitarian assistance and threats to international peace and security.

The Council urged that humanitarian indicators be used within the context of early-warning information capacities that were currently being developed by the United Nations. It pointed out that impartial provision of humanitarian assistance could be of critical importance in preventive diplomacy and encouraged member States to provide the relevant information on humanitarian issues.

The Council also expressed concern about the increased deliberate obstruction of humanitarian relief delivery and violence against humanitarian personnel in many parts of the world, in particular in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Somalia, where the Council had called for secure access to affected populations.

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Representatives of national drug law enforcement agencies from most European countries, Canada and the United States, along with officials of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and Interpol have called for an intensified cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies worldwide. The call was made at the conclusion of the second meeting of European Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEAs) last week in Vienna.

Speakers referred to the steadily worsening drug trafficking situation and proposed coordination measures such as pooling of resources and setting up of joint databases making intelligence available to law-enforcement agencies.

Participants also called for special assistance for Eastern countries where ongoing economic and political changes were leading to a precarious situation which made them especially vulnerable for illegal trafficking and money laundering. Attention was also drawn to the increased use of technical advancements and modern communications systems by traffickers and the rise of worldwide networks of legitimate trading companies created by trafficking organizations in order to launch their proceeds.

The HONLEA Europe, which is a subsidiary body of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs, held its first meeting in Moscow in November 1990.

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The Security Council has endorsed a proposal by the Secretary General to appoint Major-General Chris Abutu Garuba from Nigeria as Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

The Secretary-General wrote in a letter to the Council that Mr. Garuba would assume his duties in Luanda as soon as it was clear that conditions exist for UNAVEM II to actively pursue the military aspects of its mandate.

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